

Message Text

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ACTION EA-09

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INFO AMEMBASSY SEOUL

AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

AMCONGEN HONG KONG

USLO PEKING

CINCPAC HONOLULU HAWAII

C O N F I D E N T I A L TOKYO 13532

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E. O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, PFOR, JA, CH, KN

SUBJ: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH CGP CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI

SUMMARY: DURING HIS FIRST MEETING WITH THE AMBASSADOR, CGP (CLEAN GOVERNMENT PARTY--KOMEITO) CHAIRMAN TAKEIRI URGED US SUPPORT OF UN UNIVERSITY, DESCRIBED IKEDA-MIYAMOTO MEETING AND 10-YEAR SOKA GAK-KAI/JCP COEXISTENCE AGREEMENT AS A "MISTAKE," UNDERLINED THE IMPORTANCE OF US RELATIONS TO JAPAN, AND PRONOUNCED HIMSELF DEEPLY AWARE OF CGP RESPONSIBILITIES AS A POTENTIAL LDP COALITION GOVERNMENT PARTNER. TAKEIRI CAME ACROSS AS SINCERELY PRO-AMERICAN, BUT THERE ARE CLEARLY POLICY NUANCES, IF NOT DIFFERENCES, WITHIN CGP. END SUMMARY.

1. DURING A TWO-HOUR LUNCHEON SPETEMBER 19 HOSTED BY CGP CHAIRMAN YOSHIKATSU TAKEIRI FOR AMBASSADOR HODGSON, FOUR THEMES SEEMED WORTH NOTING.

2. UN UNIVERSITY. TAKEIRI NOTED CGP DISTRESS AT SENATE VOTE NOT TO CONFIDENTIAL

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APPROPRIATE FUNDS FOR UN UNIVERSITY IN TOKYO. HE STRESSED THAT SUPPORT FOR UN UNIVERSITY IN JAPAN WAS SUPRA-PARTISAN AND THAT CGP IN PARTICULAR HAD CENTERED ITS FOREIGN POLICY ON THE UN. HE EMPHASIZED JAPAN'S STAKE IN SUCCESSFUL FULFILLMENT OF THIS INTERNATIONAL-

ALIST INITIATIVE. AMB RESPONDED THAT NEGATIVE SENATE VOTE REFLECTED NOT LACK OF SUPPORT FOR UN UNIVERSITY AS SUCH, BUT INCREASING US CONSCIOUSNESS OF LIMITED RESOURCES AND UNHAPPINESS WITH RECENT UN DEVELOPMENTS IN GENERAL. TAKEIRI SAID HE UNDERSTOOD, BUT HOPED THAT US WOULD BE ABLE TO SUPPORT UNIVERSITY.

3. SOKA GAKKAI/JSP COEXISTENCE AGREEMENT. TAKEIRI SAID IT WOULD BE CORRECT TO UNDERSTAND SOKA GAKKAI/JCP COEXISTENCE AGREEMENT (AND PRESUMABLY THE MIYAMOTO-IKEDA CONVERSATIONS) AS A "MISTAKE." REFERRING TO NON-GAKKAI/CGP SPECULATION, TAKEIRI NOTED POSSIBLE IKEDA MOTIVATIONS: (A) THAT IKEDA WAS SIMPLY OUTSMARTED BY MIYAMOTO; (B) THAT JCP HAS SOMETHING ON IKEDA; (C) THAT IKEDA'S MEETINGS WITH WORLD LEADERS HAVE MADE HIM EGOISTIC AND ARROGANT; AND (D) THAT IKEDA IS INTENT ON NOBEL PEACE PRIZE. CGP LOWER HOUSE MEMBER MASAOKI, WHO ALSO ATTENDED LUNCHEON, SUGGESTED IKEDA AIM MIGHT HAVE BEEN TO OBTAIN MIYAMOTO'S APPROVAL OF FREEDOM OF RELIGION, CONTRARY TO TRADITIONAL MARXIST IDEOLOGY. THE AMB, NOTHING THAT IKEDA HAD TALKED WITH MANY OF WORLD'S INTELLECTUALS, SUGGESTED THAT IKEDA MIGHT HAVE THOUGHT HE COULD CARRY ON AN INTELLECTUAL CONVERSATION WITH MIYAMOTO WITHOUT POLITICAL RAMIFICATIONS. TAKEIRI ADDED THAT WHILE HIS RELATIONSHIP WITH IKEDA REMAINS THAT OF A DISCIPLE, SOMETIMES THAT TEACHER NEEDS CORRECTING. HE CONCLUDED BY SAYING THAT IF REPEAT IF THE SOKA GAKKAI DID IN FACT CLOSE RANKS WITH THE JCP, THE CGP SHOULD BE DISBANDED.

4. NORTHEAST ASIAN RELATIONS. TAKEIRI SAID THE BASIS OF JAPAN'S FOREIGN POLICY SHOULD BE THE US-JAPAN RELATIONSHIP. ON THAT BASE, JAPAN SHOULD IMPROVE ITS RELATIONS WITH CHINA. WITH THESE TWO TIES SECURED, JAPAN SHOULD APPROACH USSR. JAPAN'S "BALANCED DIPLOMACY" TOWARD CHINA AND USSR HE THOUGHT WAS INCORRECT. PICKING UP THEME, AMB NOTED THE SECRETARY'S RECENT COMMENT THAT "THERE IS NO SUCH THING AS EQUIDISTANT DIPLOMACY." TAKEIRI ADDED THAT CGP IS SUPPORTING US EFFORTS IN KOREA.

5. DOMESTIC POLITICS. TAKEIRI SAID HE PERSONALLY HAD NO CONFIDENCE IN PRIMIN MIKI ("UNTRUSTWORTHY") AND WAS WORKING FOR A RECONCILIATION BETWEEN DEP PRIMIN FUKUDA AND FORMER PRIMIN TANAKA, LEAD-CONFIDENTIAL

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ING TO A FUKUDA GOVERNMENT. CONCLUDING, TAKEIRI SAID CGP WAS VERY CONSCIOUS OF ITS CURRENT AND FUTURE RESPONSIBILITIES (IMPLYING COALITION GOVERNMENT WITH LDP) AND THAT FRIENDSHIP WITH US WAS ESSENTIAL TO CARRYING OUT THOSE RESPONSIBILITIES.

6. COMMENT. IN THIS FIRST MEETING WITH THE AMB, TAKEIRI CAME ACROSS AS A SINCERE PROPONENT OF FRIENDLY TIES WITH THE US AND AS STAUNCHLY ANTI-COMMUNIST, AT LEAST DOMESTICALLY. THERE ARE, OF COURSE, POLICY NUANCES -- IF NOT DIFFERENCES -- WITHIN THE CGP, SOME OF WHICH CROPPED UP DURING LUNCH; TAKEIRI REFLECTS OLDER MEMBERS' CONSERVATIVE BIAS. WHILE HIS COMMENTS GENERALLY WERE LITTLE DIFFERENT THAN WHAT WE HAVE HEARD PRIVATELY OVER THE YEARS, HIS CRITICAL REMARKS ABOUT

IKEDA STRUCK US AS BREATH-TAKINGLY CANDID AND INDICATIVE OF PROFOUND
POLITICAL DIFFERENCES BETWEEN THE TWO MEN. HE ALSO PROBABLY WISHED
BY HIS CONDOR TO ENHANCE THE ATMOSPHERE OF PERSONAL RELATIONSHIP
WITH THE AMBASSADOR, WHICH APPEARED TO BE ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES OF
HIS LUNCHEON INVITATION.
HODGSON

CONFIDENTIAL

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